



Senate Bill 308 -- *Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program*
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 2, 2022
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 308 -- *Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program*. Senate Bill 308 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish and administer a voluntary statewide green business certification program. The program must recognize businesses that reduce their environmental footprint and provide consumers with a way to identify certified green businesses.

Senate Bill 308 would enhance the State of Maryland's green business efforts by creating a program that mirrors a successful entity already in place in Montgomery County. Montgomery County's Green Business Certification is a voluntary recognition program designed to encourage businesses and other organizations to take steps that reduce the ecological impact of their workplace. The program was created in 2009 through a partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and Montgomery College.

This program creates an enhanced incentive for businesses to green their practices and reduce their ecological footprint, thereby benefitting Maryland's environment. A statewide green business certification program would recognize the importance of encouraging businesses and other entities to institute long-term sustainable practices. Environmental issues can and must be addressed by a variety of stakeholders, including the business community.

From an economic perspective, this bill allows businesses to differentiate themselves in the marketplace through a commitment to sustainability. This program will grow the ability for customers or potential customers to seek out green businesses. Certified green businesses also often seek to prioritize doing business with other green businesses. Additionally, passage of this bill would help drive demand for green products and services, which would grow new jobs in this sector of Maryland's economy.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is a proud certified green business. Numerous businesses from a vast number of industries have also achieved green business certification in the Montgomery County including AstraZeneca, Capitol Document Solutions, CohnReznick, Copper Canyon Grill, Corcoran Caterers, Fitzgerald Auto Mall, Honest Tea, Information Systems Solutions, Marriott International, MoCo's Founding Farmers, Montgomery College, Red Coats, Rife International, Social & Scientific Systems, and United Solutions.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 308 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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